

# One-Strap Princess Gown for Fashion Dolls Tutorial

A simple sewing tutorial for creating a dramatic floor-length fashion doll gown with a fitted bodice, single shoulder strap, and full gathered skirt.



## Before You Begin

Print the supplied pattern pages at 100% / Actual Size. Check the 2-inch test line before cutting. The pattern set contains a bodice piece, a strap piece, and a skirt piece. The skirt pattern is marked to be cut on the fold. Cut your fabric carefully and keep the pattern orientation consistent.

**Important:** The pattern pages themselves are not reproduced in this tutorial PDF. Use the separate pattern download for cutting.

## Supplies

- Printed One-Strap Princess Gown pattern pages
- Lightweight fashion fabric; sequin fabric works beautifully for the photographed version
- Matching all-purpose thread
- Small sharp fabric scissors or snips
- Pins or sewing clips

- Hand-sewing needle
- Sewing machine with a fine needle suitable for your fabric
- Small strip of hook-and-loop tape or tiny snaps for the back closure
- Optional: lightweight lining fabric for a cleaner bodice finish

## Cutting the Dress

1. **Print and check the scale.** Print the pattern at Actual Size/100%. Measure the 2-inch test line. Do not resize the pages if the line measures correctly.
2. **Cut the bodice.** Pin or trace the bodice pattern onto your fabric and cut the required bodice pieces. For a neat finish, cut matching lining pieces as well.
3. **Cut the shoulder strap.** Use the rectangular strap pattern to cut the single strap. If the fabric frays heavily, cut a second strap piece for lining or plan to fold the raw edges inward.
4. **Cut the skirt on the fold.** Place the skirt pattern edge marked "Cut on the Fold" directly against the fabric fold and cut around the remaining edges. When opened, this creates the wide skirt section needed for gathering.

## Sewing the Bodice

5. **Finish the top edge of the bodice.** For an unlined bodice, turn the upper raw edge narrowly to the wrong side and stitch. For a lined bodice, place the outer bodice and lining right sides together, sew the upper edge, trim the seam allowance, turn right side out, and press gently.
6. **Prepare the strap.** Fold the strap lengthwise with right sides together and stitch along the long edge. Turn it right side out and flatten it. If turning such a tiny tube is difficult, fold both long raw edges toward the center, fold again, and topstitch.
7. **Attach the first end of the strap.** Position one short end of the strap at the upper front edge of the bodice on the side shown by the finished dress. Stitch securely.
8. **Fit the bodice around the doll.** Wrap the bodice around the doll's torso to check the placement and tension. The bodice should sit snugly without pulling the fabric out of shape.
9. **Complete the one-shoulder shape.** Bring the strap over the doll's shoulder toward the back of the bodice. Adjust until it lies smoothly, mark the placement, remove the dress from the doll, and stitch the second end securely to the bodice back.

**Sequin-fabric tip:** Sew slowly. If bulky sequins sit directly on a seam line, carefully remove only the sequins that interfere with stitching, while keeping the base fabric intact.

## Making the Full Gathered Skirt

10. **Finish the skirt hem.** Hem the lower edge before gathering because the wide skirt is easier to handle while flat. Turn up a narrow hem and stitch, or use a finish appropriate for your fabric.
11. **Sew gathering stitches.** Along the upper edge of the skirt, sew one or two rows of long machine stitches. Do not backstitch at either end. Leave long thread tails.
12. **Gather the skirt.** Gently pull the bobbin threads to draw the upper skirt edge into soft, even gathers. Continue until the gathered edge matches the lower edge of the bodice.
13. **Join skirt and bodice.** With right sides together, align the gathered upper edge of the skirt with the bodice waist. Distribute the gathers evenly, pin or clip, and stitch the waist seam.

14. **Secure the gathers.** Check the waist from the right side. If the gathers are even and the seam is secure, remove any visible gathering stitches below the final seam line if necessary.

## Finishing the Back

15. **Try the gown on the doll.** Wrap the gown around the doll and decide how much back opening is needed for dressing and undressing.
16. **Sew the lower center-back skirt seam.** With right sides together, stitch upward from the hem, stopping far enough below the waist to leave a comfortable back opening.
17. **Finish the open back edges.** Turn the remaining center-back raw edges narrowly to the wrong side and stitch them down. Keep the opening neat and flat.
18. **Add the closure.** Sew a small piece of hook-and-loop tape or tiny snaps to the bodice back. Check that the two back edges meet neatly without making the bodice too tight.
19. **Final fitting.** Dress the doll and check the neckline, strap, waist, back closure, and hem. Adjust the strap length or closure placement if needed.
20. **Press and finish.** Clip loose threads. Press only if the fabric allows it. For sequins or heat-sensitive fabrics, use very low heat with a pressing cloth or skip direct pressing entirely.

## Optional Finishing Ideas

- Use two coordinating sequin fabrics, with a lighter bodice and deeper-coloured skirt.
- Add a narrow ribbon, bead trim, or tiny bow at the waist seam.
- Line only the bodice while leaving the skirt unlined for maximum fullness.
- Make the same gown in satin, taffeta, glitter tulle over lining, cotton, or lightweight brocade.
- Shorten the skirt pattern for a cocktail-length version while keeping the same one-strap bodice.

## Quick Construction Order

**Cut pieces → finish bodice top → make strap → attach strap → hem skirt → gather skirt → join skirt to bodice → sew lower back seam → finish back opening → add closure → final fitting.**

Your One-Strap Princess Gown is finished! The simple fitted bodice and single shoulder strap keep the upper half sleek, while the gathered floor-length skirt creates the dramatic princess-gown shape.